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December 12, 2002

(Date)

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Appl. No. : 10/043,833
Filed : January 11, 2002

Subgroup 3: thiol as the second reactive functionality; claims 40-56 read on this species.

Subgroup 4: disulfide bond as the second covalent bond; claims 40-56 read on this species.

Subgroup 5: thiol as the chemically reactive group; claims 40-56 read on this species.

Subgroup 6: disulfides as members of the library of small organic compounds; claims 40-56 read on this species.

Subgroup 7: mass spectrometry as the identifying step; claims 40-53, and 56 read on this species.

Subgroup 8: proteases as the target protein; claims 40-56 read on this species.


It is submitted that claims 40-56, and 57-62 show a significant degree of overlap, and all relate to screening methods in order to identify small molecule ligands with binding affinity for a target. Accordingly, examining the claims of Groups I and II would not place an undue burden on the Examiner, rather would facilitate the prosecution of the application. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement.

Although no fees are believed to be true at this time, please charge any fees, including any fees for extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: December 12, 2002

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